

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1 - 4 (cancelled).

5 (previously presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising administering an effective amount of a steroid.

6 - 7 (cancelled).

8 (previously presented). The method of any one of claims 13 - 17 wherein the perforated tympanic membrane is due to tympanostomy.

9 - 10 (cancelled).

11 (previously presented). The method of claim 8, wherein the type of otitis media is acute post-tympanostomy otorrhea.

12 (cancelled).

13 (previously presented). A method of treating an individual having otitis media and a perforated tympanic membrane, the method comprising:

administering an effective, nonototoxic, amount of recombinant alpha one-antitrypsin (AAT) to the middle ear by topical application to the external auditory canal.

14 (previously presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the recombinant AAT is yeast-expressed rAAT.

15 (previously presented). The method of claim 13, further comprising: administering an effective, nonototoxic, amount of an inhibitor of at least one species of matrix metalloprotease (MMP).

16 (previously presented). The method of claim 15, wherein the MMP inhibitor is ilomastat.

17 (previously presented). The method of claim 16, wherein ilomastat is administered in a composition that further comprises yeast-expressed rAAT.

18 (new). The method of claim 16, comprising delivering at least about 0.1 mg of ilomastat and about 0.1 mg rAAT.

19 (new) The method of claim 18 comprising delivering from about 0.1 mg to 50 mg of ilomastat and from about 0.1 mg to about 50 mg of rAAT.

20 (new) The method of claim 13 or 16, wherein hearing loss of said individual is not diminished.

21 (new). The method of claim 13, wherein an otic inflammatory response is reduced in said treated individual relative to an untreated individual.